In the specification:

Page 1, amend the paragraph from lines 13 to 18 as follows:

The subscriber line interface circuit (SLIC) is being used in the central office (CO) as well as the PBX environment to interface standard telephones, fax equipment, modems, answering machines, and the like. With the advent of voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP), cable modems (CM) now offer voice telephone services and the SLIC is now resident in the subscriber's premises itself. The evolving standard recommends four telephony connections (i.e. 4 SLICs) in every cable modem.

Page 3, amend the paragraph from lines 3 to 19 as follows:

To meet the above and other objectives, the present invention is directed to a low power SLIC that is particularly useful in bringing down costs associated with cable modems used to implement voice telephony services. In the subscriber loop, the loop current has a DC as well as an AC component. The DC component (DC loop current) performs the function of delivering power to the telephone. The AC component ~~comp0nent~~ is the speech signal. The power levels however, are vastly different: The DC power is a few hundred milliwatts, whereas the AC power is just a few milliwatts. It is the DC current feed then, which must be made efficient if one intends to make power feed efficient. At the same time, such an implementation must not disturb the performance of the AC voice band signals. One embodiment of the low power SLIC is implemented by having two current sources in parallel (one high efficiency, the other high fidelity) as illustrated by Figure 10. The DC current source has high efficiency and a high impedance in the voice band, while the AC current source synthesizes a 600 Ohm (typical) termination and does the high fidelity speech transmit and receiving (hybrid)

functions. The DC current source then is optimized for efficiency while the AC current source is optimized for fidelity (voice band performance). The DC current source is implemented using switched-mode techniques.

Page 10, amend the paragraph from line 5 to 15 as follows:

In order to benefit from the reduced power consumption of the loop (phone or any other component such as lower wiring resistance, etc.), a constant efficiency battery feed mechanism is required. This essentially means that ~~is~~ less power is to be delivered, then less power is actually consumed. This property is inherent in DC-DC converters or switched-mode power conversion. The benefits of such a power feed method can be examined by assuming that one can achieve, for example, a constant efficiency η of about 85%. Many DC-DC converters such as the model TPS5102 commercially available from Texas Instruments Incorporated of Dallas, Texas, can achieve however, efficiencies of more than 90%. The cost benefits are shown in Table 1 below that illustrates savings in power and cost by using a DC-DC converter to implement a constant efficiency battery feed mechanism.